

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Frederick W. Baldwin, December 24, 1917, with transcript

copy Alexander Graham Bell to F. W. Baldwin. L 1917, December 24 Mr. F. W. Baldwin, Beinn Bhreagh, near Baddeck, N. S. Dear Mr. Baldwin:

Many thanks for the photograph of the picture of the Telephone birches, Brantford, which I return herewith; also for Mr. Robertson's note of Dec. 17 which I also return.

I don't remember giving any directions for a water— colour sketch, but I recognize the Telephone Heights, near Brantford, Ontario, during the early days of the telephone. (On Oct. 24, 1917 a photograph of these birch trees was taken by the photographers of the British and Colonial Press Ltd, of 67 Adelaide Street West, Toronto.) I am sorry to say that the inscription upon the back of the picture is incorrect. No experiments were made at that point nor were wires attached to the trees.

When I went to Brantford as a young man, in 1870, I was in very poor health and not expected to live more than a few months. I selected a place on the edge of the bluff overlooking the valley of the Grand River, where the birches stand, as a resting place. Here rugs and pillows were placed upon the ground at the foot of the trees, where I spent a great deal of my time in the open air. After my recovery this spot continued to be my favourite retreat, where I would carry my books and papers and enjoy the view over the Grand River. I used to call it my “dreaming place”. It was there that the telephone was invented in 1874 and here also in 1875 I wrote the first draft of 2 the specification for the telephone.

Yours sincerely, (signed) Alexander Graham Bell. Enclosures.